

CLAIMS:

1. Valve for gas tank, consisting of a rotating control stem whose purpose is to activate an element for opening or closing, and a control wheel whose purpose is to turn the control stem so as to open or close the valve, distinguished by the fact that the control wheel is axially mobile on the control stem between its first axial position, in which the control wheel and control stem are coupled together such that a rotational movement of the control wheel causes a corresponding rotational movement of the control stem, and a second axial position, in which the control wheel and stem are uncoupled from each other and the wheel can turn freely on the stem without causing any rotational movement of the stem, and by the fact that a snap-on elastic retaining means is provided between the wheel and the stem with a view to retaining the wheel in an elastic manner in one or the other of these two positions on the stem, since the wheel is axially displaceable on the stem between its two axial positions by the application of a predetermined axial force on the wheel with a view to overcoming the retaining force of the elastic means of retention.

2. Valve according to claim 1, distinguished by the fact that the control wheel has a non-circular internal part, preferably hexagonal, and the control stem has an external part of corresponding geometric shape, where the internal part of the wheel is fitted into the first axial position of the wheel around said external part of the stem, and engaged with it, so as to cause transmission of a rotational couple from the wheel to the stem, and the two parts are axially disengaged from each other in the second axial position of the wheel handle.

3. Valve according to claim 1, distinguished by the fact that the snap-on elastic means of retention consists of two circumferential grooves that are separated axially from each other on the external circumferential surface of the stem, and at least one pin mounted in a radial hole in the control wheel, where this pin is stressed by an elastic ring in the wheel, radially towards the interior, with a view to engaging in one or the other of said grooves with a view to maintaining the wheel elastically in one or the other of these axial positions, the axial displacement of the wheel from one of these two positions on the stem towards its other position causes the radial disengagement of the pin from one of the two grooves against the elastic force of the abovementioned ring, and then the radial engagement of the pin in the other groove under the effect of this ring's elasticity.

4. Valve according to claim 3, distinguished by the fact that the radial receiving hole of the pin present in the control wheel discharges to the exterior in an annular groove present in the external circumference of the wheel, and in which the elastic ring is inserted.

5. Valve according to claim 3, distinguished by the fact that the elastic ring is a toric ring of elastomeric material.

6. Valve according to claim 3, distinguished by the fact that several pins are provided that are equidistant from each other in the circumferential direction of the control wheel.

7. Valve according to claims 1, distinguished by the fact that a stop is provided in order to limit axial displacement of the wheel on the stem in both directions beyond the first position and beyond the second position.

8. Valve according to claim 1, distinguished by the fact that a stop is provided to prevent separation of the wheel from the control stem.

SUMMARY

The gas tank valve consists of a wheel handle mounted on a control stem. The wheel handle can be displaced on the control stem in the direction of the longitudinal axis of the stem between a first position, coupled to the stem, with a view to activating it, and a second, uncoupled position of the stem, in which the wheel can turn freely and empty on the stem without causing rotational movement of the stem.